Clearance to Pak table-tennis team

*95. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in clearance has discouraged the Pakistan table-tennis team to participate in the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in conveying the clearance; and

(c) what steps have been taken to counter Pakistan media's contention of linking the delay to India's pulling out of Sharjah cricket tournament?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI): (a) to (c) The Table-Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) submitted an application on 31.1.2001 seeking approval and financial assistance of Government for holding the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship at New Delhi from 14th to 20th April, 2001. Thereafter, on 13.2.2001, the Federation indicated that Pakistan and Fiji are not participating in this Championship. Accordingly, after obtaining the clearance of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, permission was given to TTFI for holding the event from 14th to 20th April, 2001. Later on, the Table-Tennis Federation informed on 22.3.2001 that Pakistan has confirmed its participation. As such after obtaining the clearance of Ministry of External Affairs, the approval for inviting the Table-Tennis Team of Pakistan was conveyed on 11th April, 2001. As such, it will be seen that there has been no delay on the part of the Government of India in giving clearance to the participation of Pakistan Table-Tennis Team in the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship.

There is no basis for linking Pakistan's non-participation in the 15th Commonwealth Table-Tennis Championship with India's decision not to play in Sharjah. India's decision for not playing in Sharjah Cricket tournament is based on a policy decision taken by the Government of India not to play any cricket matches at non-regular Cricket venues at least for a period of three years.

Rehabilitation scheme for FCI

*96. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIFR, in its last hearing gave a final-limit of three months to Government to submit a rehabilitation scheme for revival of FCI;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to submit scheme within the stipulated time, to stop winding-up decision by the BIFR;

(c) if not the actual status; and

(d) the details of revival plans for each unit *viz.* Sindri, Gorakhpur, Ramagundam and Talcher?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The rehabilitation proposals of FCI, based on unit-wise viability, were considered by the competent authority in the Government on 31.5.2001 and a Group of Ministers has been constituted to examine the proposals and submit its recommendations. The Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) is functional. The operations of the Ramagundam and Talcher Units were suspended since April, 1999 due to a very high cost of production and continuous incremental losses and consequent to a fire accident, the operations of Gorakhpur Unit was suspended in June, 1990.

Supply of seed minikits to Madhya Pradesh

†*97. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide seed minikits of the varieties of seeds of matar, masoor, moong and urad released under the pulse production programme and of groundnut, til, ramtil and alsi released under oilseeds production programme in ten years, to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government are considering to lift restriction of ten years for seed minikits; and

(c) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is already supplying the minikits of various pulses including matar, masoor, moong and urad and different oilseeds including groundnut, til (sesame) to Madhya Pradesh which are less than 10

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.